

HIV Serology Update 2008

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Background

- **Impetus = ~1/4 of HIV-infected persons are not aware of their infection**
- **CDC issued revised testing guidelines in September 2006**
 - **Pertain to health-care settings**
 - **Recommend HIV screening of all patients in health-care settings after notification unless patient opts-out**
 - **Separate written consent for HIV should not be required**

Changes To HIV Rules

- **Testing of pregnant women - in effect**
- **Consent for HIV testing - public comment**
- **Use of rapid HIV tests - public comment**
- **Definition of confirmed HIV positive - public comment**

Testing Of Pregnant Women

- **Rule changed in March 2006**
- **Test all pregnant women for HIV at initial prenatal visit (unless she is known to be positive)**

Testing Of Pregnant Women

- **If woman declines, offer HIV testing again at the third trimester and/or time of delivery**
 - **Declination must be documented in medical record**
- **Test high-risk, HIV-negative women again during the third trimester and/or at the time of delivery**

Testing Of Pregnant Women

- Risk factors include
 - Having multiple sex partners or an at-risk sex partner during pregnancy
 - Contracting an STD during the pregnancy
 - Use of illicit drugs
 - Exchanging sex for money or drugs

Testing Of Pregnant Women

- Confirm positive tests for HIV before patient notification unless:
 - Untested woman presents in labor
 - Use an approved rapid test
 - Subsequently confirm the result

Consent For HIV Testing

- Testing shall only be performed with the consent of the individual being tested
 - Current rule
- Consent should specifically mention HIV, be signed, and may be included in a general consent statement
 - Proposed additional statement

Use Of Rapid HIV Tests

- Also known as point-of-care tests
- Proposed rule for rapid HIV tests:
 - If tested positive, individuals shall be:
 - Informed of their result if considered a preliminary positive
 - Given a confirmatory laboratory-based test
 - Advised to take precautions to avoid transmitting the virus

Definition Of Confirmed HIV Positive

- Confirmatory criteria:
 - Repeatedly reactive laboratory-based antibody screening tests followed by a positive Western blot or immunofluorescence test
 - A positive rapid test followed by a positive Western blot or immunofluorescence test

Definition Of Confirmed HIV Positive

- Positive result or detectable quantity of:
 - HIV DNA or RNA (e.g., DNA polymerase chain reaction or plasma HIV-1 RNA)
 - HIV p24 antigen test
 - HIV isolation